



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Croatia

SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The protection of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia is complex since it integrates general interests of a public and interests of individuals. National governmental institutions, educational and research institutions, non-governmental organisations, breeding companies, breeding organisations, breeders and hobbyists are included into the preservation programme. In January 2010 was adopted "National programme for the protection of autochthonous - native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia". In 2012 was adopted "Operational programme for the establishment of a domestic animals gene bank in the Republic of Croatia".

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The efficient protection of native and protected breeds of domestic animals.

Future needs

Completing the characterization of native and protected breeds in the Republic of Croatia on the levels of exterior, productivity and genetic characteristics is necessary for optimizing a breeding strategy, adjusting the in situ and ex situ programmes of conservation and developing a programme of economic utilization. The characterization should be continuous (interval) in order to correctly assess population trends and success of the protection programme. The phenotype characteristics of breeds are a part of their recognisability and the basis of which the judgement of their breeding value is made. The characteristics of productivity and qualitative characteristics of the products are determined in order to get to know the production predisposition of breeds, which is necessary to make breeding profiling, programmes for economic utilization and forming recognizable products.

2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Inclusion of native and protected breeds in programmes of protection of threatened habitat are suitable for maintaining biodiversity of the habitat, especially in the protected areas, due to their adaptability to the environment they lived in for centuries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

A common problem encountered when maintaining habitat's biotope is suppression of desirable plant communities by more aggressive plants (weeds, low, and later, high woody vegetation). So, meadows, grasslands and other areas within protected areas that have been cultivated for centuries and served for food production become devastated. A reasonable way to maintain biodiversity of a habitat is by including native breeds into the system of protected areas management. Such examples were recorded in the management of Nature Park Lonjsko polje (Posavac horse,

Slavonian Strymian podolian cattle).

Future needs

Other native breeds are to be integrated into other protected areas in a similar way in order to maintain biodiversity.

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

All breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia are under constant watch, including the imported breeds and breeds that are not classified as endangered. If the imported breeds are existentially endangered in their country of origin or they have a particular economic (production, strategic) significance for livestock production in Croatia, they are included into the Programme.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Based on monitoring the indicators for the breed (size, structure and trends), National Council for the AnGR Programme makes decisions on placing the breed in adequate endangerment categories, it orders taking necessary action steps, offers guidelines and amendments to the active programmes for the protection of native and protected breeds, in accordance with the level of endangerment. It consolidates its findings, recommendations and decisions and submits in the regular Annual Report.

Future needs

The main future needs of a systematic monitoring system of native and protected breeds in the Republic of Croatia are: monitoring the population indicators of endangerment; timely activation of measures for protection of native and protected breeds in accordance with the status of endangerment; offering guidelines in case of critical situations; integration of new methods within conservation programmes.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Completing the characterization of native and protected breeds in the Republic of Croatia on the levels of appearance, productivity and genetic characteristics is necessary for optimizing a breeding strategy, adjusting the *in situ* and *ex situ* programmes and developing a programme of economic utilization.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Better managing genetic variability of populations in *in situ* programmes for the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia.

Future needs

The characterization of genetic characteristics so they could be phylogenetically positioned facilitates setting priorities in the implementation of action plans. Determining genetic forms related to economically important characteristics, resilience to diseases or private alleles is of particular importance.

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Develop technical standards and protocols for characterization and monitoring of trends and risk.
Develop of model for maintenance and sustainable use of animal genetic resource.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

National research institutions use their activities to support a more complete characterization of breeds, define standards for the breed and find phenotypical and genetic characteristics of a special economic importance. The latest biotechnological methods enable finding genes of a special economic use or genes that benefit the emergence of hereditary diseases.

Future needs

Do these measures address:

5.1 Animal identification and recording

Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Animal identification and recording are regular practice in Republic of Croatia. Herd book for autochthonous breeds are establish. All autochthonous breeds are in system of animal identification. Animal identification is in function conservation, traceability and animal health.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal identification is in function protection, conservation, traceability, animal health and promotion of AnGR.

Future needs

Continue with practice of animal identification and recording.

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Breeding organisations (associations, unions) actively take part in the making and implementing breeding programmes and action plans, cooperate with the bodies of public administration and public institutions, suggest research programmes, promote breeds, develop programme for the economic utilization and cooperate with similar breeding organizations on a national and international level.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Breeders' associations accept active role in conservation and affirmation of autochthonous breeds.

Future needs

It is necessary to establish an organisational for of breeding in which breeders fulfil given goals, improve breeding and strategically direct and promote it though breeding associations. Breeders should play an active role in the realization of the Programme. A passive approach based on exterior donations should be complemented with active economic programmes, which would imply the creation of more profitable production systems. Breeding organisation are the carriers of cooperation with interested parties in the country and abroad.

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

A fast development of new biotechnological methods offers new possibilities for storing and reactivating genetic materials from the gene bank. It can be used to act in different parts of the *in situ* programmes for the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Use of reproductive biotechnology have positive impact on reproductive efficiency, especially in small population and ex situ programmes.

Future needs

Continue to develop and integrate new findings and biotechnological achievements into current conservation programmes and encourage the integration of national research and development potentials into international projects directed at managing genetic resources.

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

We haven't experience with genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

We haven't immediately experiences with regard to impact of genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Imported genetic material can be involved in local production environments. Breeding associations and other responsible subject are involved in

process "genetic assessment" before application of introduced genetic material.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Introduced genetic materials have limited impact on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

Continue with "genetic assessment" before application of introduced genetic material.

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources are accepted for all endangered autochthonous breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Conservation programmes have key roles for sustainability of endangered autochthonous breeds.

Future needs

Continued implementation of conservation programmes for endangered autochthonous breeds. Monitoring of conservation programmes.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Maintaining the native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia, in their original environment (*in situ*), is a primary form of protection. By maintaining a constant contact with the environment (habitat, humans), native breeds maintain their own adaptability, they adapt their productivity, nurture bio-diversity of the habitat, maintain the relationship with humans and become integrated into the activities of rural areas (folklore, tourist, etc.).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Factors which should be taken into account when better managing genetic variability of populations in *in situ* programmes for the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia are the following: genetic, age and reproductive structure of populations, the effective size, geographical distribution, conservation programmes and preventive action measures.

Future needs

A quality (coordinated) breeding programme serves as a basis for the *in situ* programmes for the protection of native and protected breeds of domestic animals. It is used to maximize the effective size of the population, to minimize genetic pressure and make the protected breed economically active once again. One of the main tasks in managing genetic variations in smaller populations is a reduction of genetic pressure. By monitoring the effective size of a population as well as genetic trends.

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The establishment of the Domestic Animals Gene Bank in the Republic of Croatia is provided under Item 6.4.4 of the National Programme for the protection of autochthonous and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Cryoconservation program is important support to *in situ* of AnGR management and protection. Development of the *en situ* programmes for the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia is important for the preservation, especially for the preservation of critically endangered breeds.

Future needs

Integrating gene banks into the existing and new programmes for the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals is one of the priorities when it comes to the overall strategy of preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National research institutions give direct support in process complete characterization of breeds, define standards for the breed and find

phenotypic and genetic characteristics of a special economic importance. Based on structural indicators for a population, research institutions should help with the coordination of mating schemes in order to achieve maximal conservation effects.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Scientific cognitions help define implementation priorities, a more efficient coordination and creation of an appropriate type of cooperation. National research institutions are included into international research projects focused on the preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia.

Future needs

The characterisation of breeds that have been proven native needs to be completed with regards to production predispositions, emphasising the production adaptation to a specific environment. The characterisation should be made on the DNA level as well, including genetic markers for characteristics which bear significance for production.

11. Patenting

Legislation Yes

If legislation is place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Yes Living organisms in general Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Yes Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

1. Marketing of animal products in general

Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Development of a programme for economic utilization and competitiveness of native breeds is one of basic assumptions of their long-term sustainability. Finding and establishing models for better competitiveness makes the programme less dependant on incentives.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

A lack of economic competitiveness of the programme for the utilization of native breeds is the main reason for their biological endangerment. Due to lower productive efficiency, they were pushed out by more competitive (more productively efficient), most frequently, allochthonous breeds.

Future needs

The current economic and social environment opens up new possibilities for the development of the programme for economic reaffirmation (utilization) of native and protected breeds, with respect to market standards (safety, traceability, and authenticity, ethological and ecological norms). It is necessary to promote the development of programmes for economic utilization of native and protected breeds, their promotion and marketing preparation of specific (traditional) products.

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Native and protected breeds of domestic animals are an incentive for revival of parts of rural areas, ensuring additional income for the local population. They are suitable for use and keeping of pastures, prevention of devastation and succession of habitats (byotope), inclusion in programs of organic (ecological) production and development of recognisable traditional brands. They are a component of the ecosystem upon which numerous other plant and animal species depend.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Involving autochthonous breeds in systems organic production have good impact on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

Promoting and involving of autochthonous breeds in system of organic production. Developing of market for organic product.

3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Production and marketing products from autochthonous breeds under labels "protected authenticity", "geographical origin" or "traditional reputation".

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Modern programmes for preservation of autochthonous breeds of domestic animals recognize the need for them to be adapted to the market on which native genotypes make up for their lower level of productivity with attributes such as "ecological", "authentic", "traditional" or "original".

Additional options are available through implementation of products from autochthonous breeds into supplies labelled "protected authenticity", "geographical origin" or "traditional reputation". Native breeds can be economically utilized through interbreeding programmes with the purpose of economic usability (as part of a breeding programme). This helps raise profits of breeders of native and protected breeds to the level of profitability in the long term.

Future needs

Basing the programme for preservation of native and protected breeds of domestic animals on self-sustainability in the given market environment is a necessity that will ensure them a safe future. This is why programmes for the preservation of native and protected breed of domestic animals should contain economic reaffirmation programmes which are activated when minimal prerequisites are met (appropriate number of heads, technological solutions, market interest, etc.).

4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as "free range" or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

5. Safety of food products from animals

Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Maintain measures for food safety.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures for food safety have good impact on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

Maintain measures for food safety.

6. Traceability of animal-origin products

Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Maintain measures for traceability of animal products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures for traceability of animal products have good impact on animal genetic resources management.

Future needs

Maintain measures for traceability of animal products.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Natural disasters and epidemic diseases can partially and completely (irreversibly) endanger survival of a part or the entire native or protected population of domestic animals. Should a natural disaster or an epidemic spread of a disease occur, the native and protected breeds of domestic animals can acquire a status of being highly endangered, with regards to the size of the population, its distribution (number of herds, area size and density of population in the area) and genetic materials stored at the gene bank. A wider dispersion of population within the original breeding area should be encouraged and less risky breeding areas (epidemiologically less risky animals) should be preferred. A regular inventorisation and replenishment of genetic materials stored at the gene bank should be conducted. Should there be an emergence of epidemic diseases and natural disasters, in agreement with the competent authorized bodies, an action plan for urgent salvation of animals, their relocation to a safe location and additional collection of genetic materials to a gene bank should be performed.

Future needs

Endangered breeds of domestic animals should be more carefully protected under the relevant legal framework, in addition to considering, adapting and integrating preventive measures (*vaccination*).

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

1.1 Animal identification

Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

All live animals and germplasm are under strict measures of control.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures of zoosanitary control are usefully in animal genetic resources conservation and management.

Future needs

Maintain practice of control of live animals and germplasm.

1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

All live animals and germplasm are under strict measures of control.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures of zoosanitary control are usefully in animal genetic resources conservation and management.

Future needs

Maintain practice of control of live animals and germplasm.

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Used reproductive technologies respect all zoosanitary measures.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures of zoosanitary control are usefully in animal genetic resources conservation and management.

Future needs

Maintain practice of zoosanitary controls.

1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Control of animal movements (trade, market) are part of regular practice in Republic of Croatia.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Measures of control of livestock movements are usefully in animal genetic resources conservation and management.

Future needs

Maintain control practice of livestock movements (trade).

1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

In practice is implementation of animal welfare norms (Animal Welfare Act; OG 135/06).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Control measures of animal welfare are in function of animal genetic resources conservation and management.

Future needs

Maintain control of animal welfare.

SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Traditional production systems are a part of a heritage that becomes complete through connection with native breeds of domestic animals. The adaptability of inherited native and protected breeds becomes prominent when we take a look at traditional production systems. Providing support to traditional production systems serves to preserve the environment, tradition, rural areas and traditional crafts. Traditional production systems

can be efficiently integrated into folklore and tourist offer of a region.

Future needs

2. Management of biodiversity

Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Biodiversity is the overall diversity of life on Earth which occurred due to evolution and specialization. According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), we distinguish the biodiversity of species and habitats and the genetic diversity occurring within a species. Species (microbes, fungi, plants, animals) is the basis of biodiversity. Biodiversity of animal species has been threatened due to a sudden increase in the number of people, urbanization, industrialization, climate changes, agricultural activities, environmental pollution, excessive use of natural resources and the introduction of allochthonous species and breeds. There is a rising tendency in the number of extinct and endangered species of animals in the Republic Croatia, which is best seen in the disappearance of autochthonous breeds of domestic animals. The relentless free market, governed only by the criteria of productivity and profit, enables negative selection and the permanent disappearance of the genetic variability essential for the preservation of the natural balance and the survival of life on Earth. With the "National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of the Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia" (OG 143/08), the Republic of Croatia has undertaken to define and ensure the main objectives in its area of activity. Certain guidelines of the new concept of environmental protection are being implemented and legislation is being harmonized, but these are long-term, demanding and financially exhausting tasks. In early 2010 the National Programme for the preservation of autochthonous and protected breeds of domestic animals in the Republic of Croatia was adopted.

Future needs

3. Environmental protection

Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Inclusion of native and protected breeds in programmes of threatened habitat Native breeds are suitable for maintaining biodiversity of the habitat, especially in the protected areas, due to their adaptability to the environment they lived in for centuries. A common problem encountered when maintaining habitat's biotope is suppression of desirable plant communities by more aggressive plants (weeds, low, and later, high woody vegetation). So, meadows, grasslands and other areas within protected areas that have been cultivated for centuries and served for food production become devastated. A reasonable way to maintain biodiversity of a habitat is by including native breeds into the system of protected areas management. Such examples were recorded in the management of Nature Park Lonjsko polje (Posavac horse, Slavonian Syrmian podolian cattle). Other native breeds are to be integrated into other protected areas in a similar way in order to maintain biodiversity.

Future needs

4. Overall development of the livestock sector

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

Policy

If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:

Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).

Legislation

Policy

Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The animal production in Croatia has a long tradition and certain specificity that determines local and regional distinctiveness. The actual production technologies are a combination of modern and traditional technologies with the use of various animal genotypes. This results in a variety of animal products with standard or typical quality characteristics. But on average, the animal production is dominated by conventional production technologies used to achieve high product yields i.e. high production profitability. A smaller number of actual production technologies have integrated the elements of traditional experiences with modern technologies, trying to find a better position in an open market (such a niche market) and to achieve higher product prices. Consumers' interest in organic products was increased due to a higher awareness about the product quality factors affecting nutritive and functional characteristics, traceability, product safety, compliance with the standards of animal welfare, and finally the price. Trends of market liberalization brought significant boost to dynamic adjustment of production technologies to market demands, modernization or enrichment according to "traditional" characteristics.

Future needs

5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Non-governmental organisations are included in the implementation of this Programme in accordance with their interests and rights they acquire. The private sector - companies (centres for artificial insemination, stations for transfer of eggs and embryos, etc.) are involved in the implementation of this Programme through an active part in collecting and distributing genetic materials, semen and embryos in particular. They are involved in the tasks of maintaining a gene bank, in accordance with capacities and interests.

Future needs

8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The breeders are active participants in the implementation of this Programme in the Republic of Croatia. They partake in the implementation independently or through breeding organisations (associations, unions), thus closely cooperating with other participants in the implementation of the Programme in the Republic of Croatia regarding particular breeds through the implementation of breeding programmes and action plans.

Future needs

9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Under development

If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources

Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Livestock in general

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

Submit by e-mail